HUAC Bill Opposed By Treasury Official

Associated Press

A Treasury Department official said yesterday that proposed legislation aimed at anti-Vietnam war activities is unnecessary and might infringe on a citizen's constitutional rights.

Another witness, Brig. Gen. William . WBerg of the Defense Department, said these antiwar demonstrations have in no way hurt troops' morale on the battlefield Vietnam.

Fred B. Smith, the Treasury's general counsel, told the House Committee on Un-American Activities there already are laws to cope with most situations covered under legislation the Committee is considering.

But he conceded that there was no prosecution of those who solicited and sent money for medical supplies to the Liberation Red Cross of Vietcong. He said this was due to technicalities in the regulations.

These technicalities have been eliminated, he declared, and the United States blocked the funds through other means.

"I am personally sympathetic with the motives which underlie this legislation," Smith said, but he argued "to extend the scope of existing law to cover such matters as advocacy and solicitation might involve difficult questions of infringement upon the constitutional rights of our citizens."

Berg, Deput yAssistant Secretary for Defense for Military Personnel, told the Committee:

"We do not have any evidence or reports that indicate that the morale of our forces have been impaired by the demonstrations of dissent to United States policy . . . or by the gestures of impeding the military effort."

One of the reasons cited for the need for such legislation by the Committee is to boost morale of U.S. forces in Vietnam.

The Justice Department is expected also to oppose the legislation as unnecessary today, when Deputy Attorney General Ramsey Clark testifies.